

From: RUTHANN SUDMAN
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 4:51pm

Dear Renata B. Hesse

I wish to file a complaint about the proposed Microsoft settlement as allowed by the Tunney Act. Although there are many points to argue in this settlement, I have selected Section III.A.2.

I am concerned because the PFJ prohibits certain behaviors by Microsoft towards OEMs, however Section III.A.2. allows Microsoft to retaliate against any OEM that ships Personal Computers containing a competing Operating System but no Microsoft operating system.

I do not find this to be an acceptable solution. I am TIRED of purchasing computers and paying for an Operating System that I will NEVER use. In the past, Microsoft has made legal arrangements with most major OEMs that act to cause financial distress upon said OEMs if alternate Operating Systems are offered on their stock machines. As a result, in the current market the option to purchase a stock machine without the Microsoft Operating System has become nonexistent at mainstream retailers such as Best Buy and Office Depot.

I want it to be made very clear to Microsoft that OEM's may purchase copies of the Microsoft OS/licence at a volume discount even if they choose to offer more than one OS as the stock Operating System install. The volume discount pricing should be the same, whether or not the OEM chooses to offer more than one stock Operating System. An OEM should not be punished for offering their customers a choice.

As an example: If Microsoft can force an OEM to offer ONLY the Microsoft operating system on its personal computers, will all pickup truck owners one day be forced to buy their trucks with snowplows automatically installed because a major snowplow manufacturer makes financially advantageous deals with truck manufacturers? I am certain everyone who lives in a more temperate part of the country would be very pleased... just as pleased as I am when I purchase a work machine that has a buggy, security faulted, diseased Operating System installed that impairs my work?

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,
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